



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

WPA
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,015	03/24/2004	Dan Scott Johnson	200207102-1	5688
22879	7590	03/26/2007	EXAMINER	
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY			GRAHAM, PAUL J	
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION				
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			2609	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	03/26/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/808,015	JOHNSON, DAN SCOTT	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Paul J. Graham	2609		

Period for Reply

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/24/2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 3/24/2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/26/2005. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The references listed on the Information Disclosure statement filed 9/26/2005 have been considered by examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the "related applications" section there are neither dates nor serial numbers for the related documents listed. Appropriate correction is required.
3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hunter (US 20020056118).

As to claim 1, Hunter discloses an audio/video (A/V) component networking system (10), comprising: a centralized storage system (230) adapted to communicatively receive a plurality of source components (230, a DVD for example), each source component adapted to provide A/V program data (see [0124] plurality of source components);

Art Unit: 2609

and a sink component communicatively disposed between the storage system and a presentation device (see [0079] and Fig. 11, the user station (228), sink, is disposed between the storage (230) and presentation devices (32)),

the sink component (228 or 610) adapted to receive A/V program data (235) from at least one of the plurality of source components and transmit the A/V program data to the presentation device (32), the sink component adapted to enable a user to select an A/V menu data stream (100) associated with at least one of the plurality of source components for display on the presentation device (see [0012] A/V component system; see [0013] central storage; see [0065] and [0124] plurality of source components; see [0071] a sink component can also be a central server; see Fig. 11, element 235 notes both audio (music) and video (TV based content, which is A/V); see [0151] TV as presentation device and menu data displayed).

As to claim 13, Hunter discloses an audio/video (A/V) networking method (Fig. 11, 210), comprising: accessing, via a sink component (228), a centralized storage system (230) having a plurality of source components, each source component adapted to provide A/V program data (see [0128] a DVD player as well as a HDD to store then replay a movie may be provided); transmitting, via the sink component (228), A/V program data from at least one of the source components to a presentation device; and receiving, via the sink component, a user selection of at least one of the plurality of source components for displaying an A/V menu data stream associated with the selected source component on the presentation device (see [0138] for access, [0128] for reception and transmission).

As to claim 23, claim 23 is similar to claim 13 except that claim 23 represents an apparatus and claim 13 is a method; hence, claim 23 is analyzed the same as claim 13 (see above)(see [0138] for access, [0128] for reception and transmission).

As to claim 2, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to decode (82) the A/V program data (see [0065] decoder is part of user station).

Art Unit: 2609

As to claim 3, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to transmit the A/V program data to the presentation device in real-time (see [0162] proprietary real-time decoding may occur for playback rather than storage).

As to claim 4, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the source components is selected from the group consisting of a satellite receiver source component (600), a digital versatile disk (DVD) source component (46), a compact disc (CD) source component (28), a computer (36), and a cable source component (600) (see [0128], [0065], [0126], [0151-0152]).

As to claim 5, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register the storage system with the sink component (see [0154] the stored media is registered for presentation, for billing purposes).

As to claim 6, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component (610) is adapted to perform a registration operation to register at least one available type of communication network for communicating with the storage system (36) (see [0156] the communication network will be registered or defined and accepted as the network to access storage to a central controller, which will store user information).

As to claim 7, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register a format of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (see [0163-0165], the sink registers the format of a CD or another type of storage media for playback).

As to claim 8, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to present to the user an aggregated listing (110) of the A/V program data available from each of the

Art Unit: 2609

plurality of source components (see [0075] an aggregate listing is presented in an interactive program guide).

As to claim 9, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to present to the user a filtered aggregated listing of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components based on a format of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (see [0107-0111], each tier may represent a different format of program data).

As to claim 10, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to present to the user a filtered aggregated listing of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components based on a type of the presentation device (see [0118] a different presentation device, such as a DVD or live sports event may be represented by different tiers).

As to claim 11, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register the presentation device with the sink component (see [0142] through communication with the on-screen GUI (of the presentation device) the user station, sink, realizes information about the user preferences for display on the presentation device, hence registers the device).

As to claim 12, Hunter discloses the system of claim 1, wherein at least two of the plurality of source components comprise the same type of source component (see [0160] multiple CD or DVD players may be included in the network, including the one at the set-top box).

As to claim 14, claim 14 is similar to claim 5; therefore claim 14 is analyzed with respect to claim 13 and claim 5 (see above).

Art Unit: 2609

As to claim 15, Hunter discloses the method of claim 13, further comprising performing a registration operation to register each of the plurality of source components with the sink component (see [0163-0165], the sink registers the CD or another type of media player for playback).

As to claim 16, claim 16 is similar to claim 7; therefore claim 16 is analyzed with respect to claim 13 and claim 7 (see above).

As to claim 17, claim 17 is similar to claim 2; therefore claim 17 is analyzed with respect to claim 13 and claim 2 (see above).

As to claim 18, claim 18 is similar to claim 6; therefore claim 18 is analyzed with respect to claim 13 and claim 6 (see above).

As to claim 19, Hunter discloses the method of claim 13, wherein accessing the centralized storage system comprises accessing at least one of a group consisting of a satellite receiver source component, a digital versatile disk (DVD) source component, a compact disc (CD) source component (28), a computer, and a cable source component residing on the centralized storage system (see [0138] for access).

As to claim 20, claim 20 is similar to claim 8; therefore claim 20 is analyzed with respect to claim 13 and claim 8 (see above).

As to claim 21, claim 21 is similar to claim 9; therefore claim 21 is analyzed with respect to claim 13 and claim 9 (see above).

Art Unit: 2609

As to claim 22, claim 22 is similar to claim 10; therefore claim 22 is analyzed with respect to claim 13 and claim 10 (see above).

As to claim 24, claim 24 is similar to claim 8; therefore claim 24 is analyzed with respect to claim 23 and claim 8 (see above).

As to claim 25, claim 25 is similar to claim 2; therefore claim 25 is analyzed with respect to claim 23 and claim 2 (see above).

As to claim 26, claim 26 is similar to claim 5; therefore claim 26 is analyzed with respect to claim 23 and claim 5 (see above).

As to claim 27, Hunter discloses the system of claim 23, further comprising means for registering each of the plurality of source components residing on the centralized storage system with the sink component (see [0163-0165], the sink registers the CD or another type of media player for playback).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Inomata et al. (US 5 473 317) teaches an audio-visual component system that uses remote control operation of the individual components.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul J. Graham whose telephone number is 571-270-1705. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00p EST.

Art Unit: 2609

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chanh Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7772. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

pjg
3/14/2007


CHANH D. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER